

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-5 and 7-10 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are amended. Claims 1 and 6 are canceled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated April 21, 2005, the drawings are objected to. Claims 1-10 are objected to due to informalities. The specification is objected to. Claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Horiguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,254,880. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Horiguchi et al. Claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections in the Office Action.

Allowable claims 1-12, 13-18 and 20-23

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 3, 5, 8 and 10.

Objection to the specification

The specification is amended to address the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. Replacement Figures 4A and 4B are submitted, together with a Request For

Approval of Drawing Corrections, to address the objections to the figures and to the specification. No new matter has been added.

Objections to claims 1-10

A number of claims have been amended to expand the various abbreviations, such as MOS, PMOS, NMOS, etc., in the first instance of occurrence such an abbreviation in any independent claim (or any of its dependent claims). Applicants respectfully submit that this is sufficient to address the objections, since these terms are well known in the art. Applicants also respectfully invite the Examiner's attention to MPEP § 2173.01, 2173.02, 2173.03, 2173.04, 2173.05a, and 2173.05b, which address the issue of clarity in claim language. Applicants submit that the above amendments fully address any possible remaining ambiguities and are consistent with accepted patent practice.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the language suggested by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action.

Additionally, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6 (rather than claim 1, from which it is previously depended). Applicants believe that this fully addresses the other objections to this claim.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8. Applicants believe that this fully addresses the objections to this claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected based on Horiguchi et al. These claims have been canceled, and claims 2 and 7 rewritten in independent form, to incorporate the subject matter of claims 1 and 6, respectively. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1 and 6 are believed to be moot.

As best understood, Applicants believe the above amendments address any issues with regard to claims 5 and 8 as well. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and the objections, and the allowance of all the claims.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Figures

Replacement Figures 4A and 4B are submitted, to address the Examiner's objection, with the reference numerals corrected.